



Karolinska Institutet

A medical university



**Karolinska
Institutet**



Photo: Liza Simonsson

We are advancing
knowledge about life
and strive towards
better health for all

Welcome to an inspiring journey at Karolinska Institutet

My siblings and I were the first in my family to go to university. My own journey towards an academic career began as an assistant nurse right after finishing school. Our parents had always encouraged curiosity and learning, and over time, I realised that the medical profession was my true calling.

When I began studying to be a physician at Karolinska Institutet (KI), I was very motivated. My previous experiences working in healthcare meant I was confident in the environment, and my curiosity was my driving force. I specialised in pathology focusing on kidney and transplant pathology. Kidney medicine has become one of my key research fields. The other cornerstone of my research is the process of learning.

At KI, you will find opportunities to embark on a lifelong career in academia, in healthcare, or in the life sciences sector. Having been actively involved in both research and education, and working clinically as a physician, I am proud to be an example of the diverse paths available here. KI's research makes significant contributions to medical advancements and human health, while our study programmes supply expertise to some of society's most critical areas. Since our students are also our future colleagues – together, we are KI.

Now, in my role as President, and through my previous leadership positions as Dean and Academic Vice President for Higher Education, I have gained an in-depth understanding of the contexts in which KI operates. Collaboration with Region Stockholm and healthcare services is vital in strengthening clinical research and clinical training. We learn valuable lessons from the world around us, we work towards responsible internationalisation and stand up for academic freedom.

Health is one of the most important sectors of society and aligns with the sustainable development goals. Our research and education have a profound impact on human health regionally, nationally, within the EU, and globally. As a world-leading medical university, we participate in public debates and drive development based on evidence, knowledge, and commitment. You are welcome to join us.



Annika Östman Wernerson
President, Karolinska Institutet

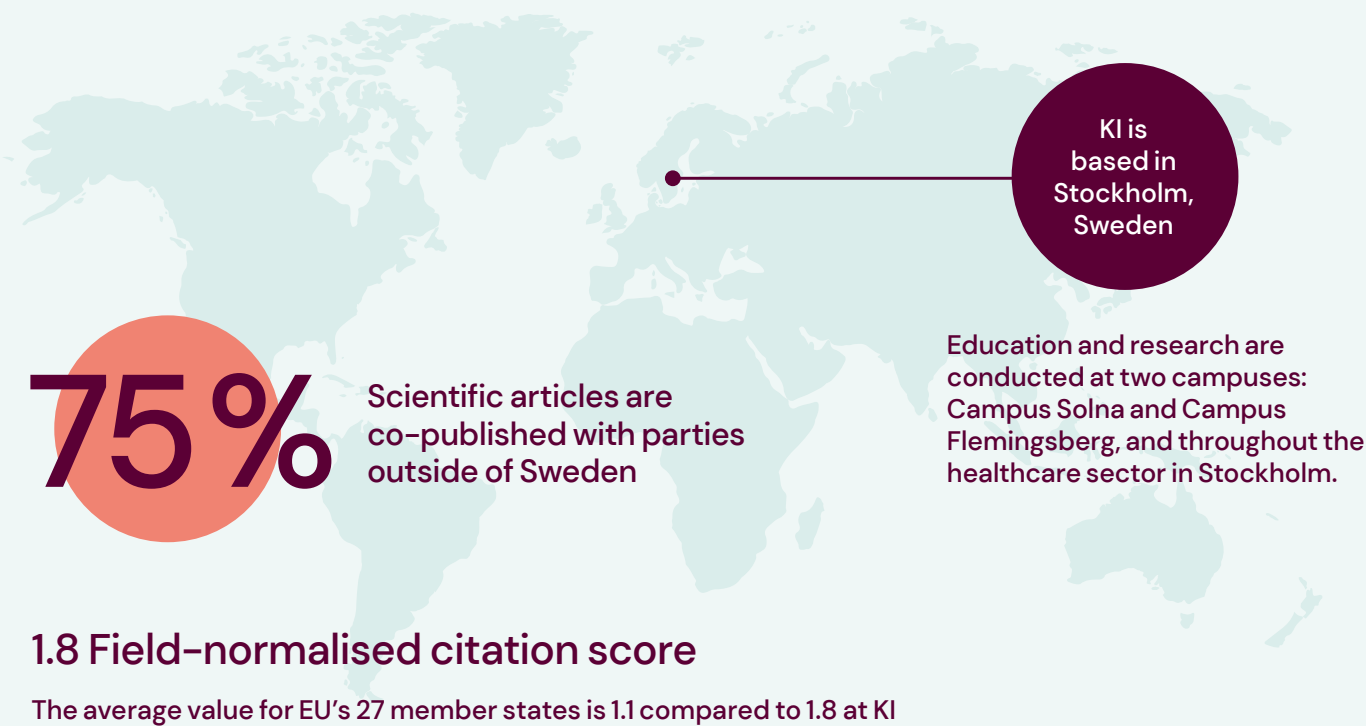


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This is Karolinska Institutet

Karolinska Institutet (KI) is the largest medical university in Sweden and was founded in 1810. KI's core activities are education, doctoral education and research.



45 Programmes at bachelor's and master's levels



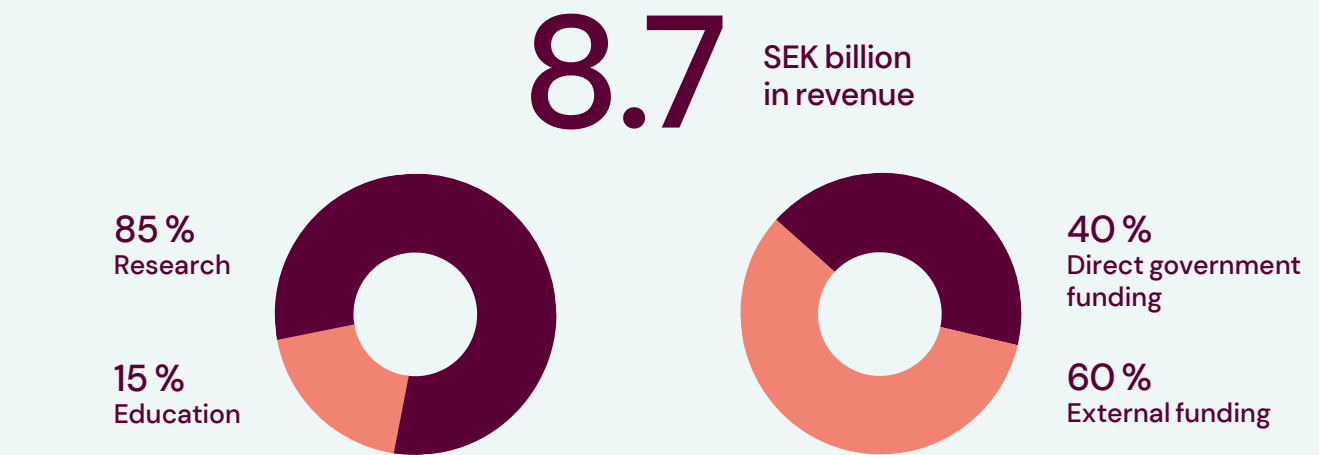
33% of all doctoral students in medicine and health in Sweden are at KI



56% are women among the recruited professors 2024



832 Teachers of which 93 % have a PhD



10 largest external research funding sources in 2024 (SEK million)

The Swedish Research Council	964
European Union	366
The Swedish Cancer Society	336
The Wallenberg Foundations	241
Forte	165
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	124
The Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund	118
The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation	111
Region Stockholm	89
The Swedish Brain Foundation	61
Other	1,292
Total	3,867

233 EU-funded projects

of which 50 are European Research Council projects and 38 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions projects

Ranked No. 1 in the EU

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 Medical and Health

QS World University Rankings 2025 Life Sciences and Medicine

The widest range of medical education in Sweden

Karolinska Institutet offers the widest range of medical education in Sweden and consistently ranks among the top universities worldwide.

Located in Stockholm, KI is at the heart of a dynamic life science cluster where universities, hospitals, research labs, and industry collaborate to drive medical advancements and improve global health. The university's close ties with Karolinska University Hospital and other affiliated teaching hospitals provide invaluable hands-on training opportunities for the approximately 11,000 students.

KI offers 45 programmes at bachelor's and master's levels, some of them leading to professional qualifications. While many programmes are taught in Swedish, the university maintains a strong international outlook. KI provides education in English on all levels, including joint master's programmes, and various exchange opportunities. A master's degree gives students a competitive edge in the global job market and lays a strong foundation for those interested in pursuing a doctoral degree.

A student-centred approach

At KI, the teaching philosophy is deeply rooted in a student-centred approach, fostering active learning and cultivating a psychologically safe environment where creativity and collaboration flourish. Interprofessional education is a key focus, preparing students to work effectively in multidisciplinary healthcare and research teams.

By combining cutting-edge research, high-quality education, and a strong international perspective, Karolinska Institutet equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their careers worldwide.

5 reasons to choose KI

1 The latest in medical research

At KI, teachers often engage in research alongside their teaching responsibilities. This allows students to stay updated on the most recent advancements in the medical field.

2 Interprofessional learning

Students learn to collaborate with peers from various healthcare disciplines, preparing them to work effectively in multidisciplinary teams, enhance patient care, and improve health outcomes.

3 Active student life

KI boasts a vibrant student life, supported by two student unions that organise a variety of activities, including sports events, theatre groups, themed parties, and much more.

4 Health matters

At KI the students well-being matters. KI offers free access to well-equipped campus gyms, group activities, and individual counselling services.

5 International study environment

KI is an international university, welcoming students from around the globe, which enriches the educational experience.

150

KI provides opportunities for international studies and traineeships through partnerships with over 150 universities worldwide.



Photo: Erik Flyg

More information at
ki.se/education



Future breakthroughs begin with doctoral education

Doctoral studies at Karolinska Institutet will give you advanced skills in your scientific field and career.

33%

of the doctoral students have an international background

4

A doctoral education consists of four years of research and study

There are more than 2,000 doctoral students at Karolinska Institutet with 350 new admissions each year. Many have an international background, and KI's extensive international collaborations provide excellent opportunities to network with research environments around the world.

Open doctoral positions are advertised on ki.se, where interested applicants can find projects across KI's medical research areas. Those selected in the recruitment process will be employed and paid a monthly salary.

A learning journey

A doctoral education is a learning journey in which the doctoral student acquires knowledge and understanding and develops skills and competences by conducting research and participating in various learning activities. The doctoral student joins one of KI's research groups and carries out a research project under professional supervision. An individual study plan is drawn up for each doctoral student, outlining their commitments and objectives. Doctoral students choose from a wide range of courses to complement their learning. When all objectives have been achieved, a doctoral degree is awarded, which means that the doctoral student is an independent researcher ready to start their future career.



A doctoral thesis at KI normally comprises a number of constituent papers and a summary thesis.

More information at ki.se/phd



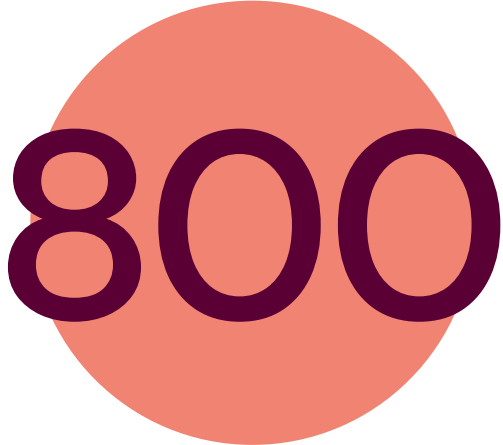
A strong and international research environment

Karolinska Institutet accounts for the single largest share of all academic medical research conducted in Sweden.

Research at KI spans the entire field of life sciences: from basic research, innovative research methods, and medical technology, to clinical research aimed at relieving and curing diseases, ageing, prevention, and global health. Currently, dedicated efforts are being made in areas such as data-driven life science, precision medicine, and advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMP). The research environment is international, with English as the working language in many research groups.

Advanced equipment

KI offers a wide range of core facilities, providing advanced equipment, services, and expertise in areas such as imaging, biostatistics, biobanking, omics, and tissue engineering. Researchers at KI also have extensive access to national and European research infrastructures.



Karolinska Institutet has about 800 teams, groups and larger units in research, distributed across 21 departments and 3 departmental or campus groups.

Pioneering research in cancer, neuroscience, immunology, epidemiology, nursing and global health

HEALTH AND DISEASE Throughout all stages of life	THE WORLD AROUND US Global health and international collaboration	THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE Precision medicine, ATMP, AI, and prevention	CANCER AND IMMUNOLOGY Better diagnostic tools and treatments
BRAIN, NERVOUS SYSTEM, AND MENTAL HEALTH	EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIostatISTICS, AND REGISTRY RESEARCH	CURIOSITY-DRIVEN BASIC RESEARCH On the body's smallest components	More information at ki.se/research

Close collaboration around the world

Collaboration and innovation are crucial for the transition of knowledge and results to society.



A centre for precision medicine was established at Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital in 2021.

More information at ki.se/collaboration

Research findings by Karolinska Institutet are utilised in collaboration with healthcare, industry, and through innovation initiatives. This transition of knowledge has a positive impact on society. One example is the Precision Medicine Center, a joint venture between KI and Karolinska University Hospital of Region Stockholm (the regional public body responsible for healthcare, among other duties). The Precision Medicine Center is currently reshaping healthcare by integrating new technologies with research, treatment and care.

Promoting innovation

To develop and commercialise promising discoveries in life science and medical technology, KI has a comprehensive innovation system. It enables researchers to take the next steps to transform their findings into products, methods, and services, throughout the process from idea to innovation.

Together with our partners, we can contribute to improving human health, to advancing knowledge about life, while striving towards better health for all.



SciLifeLab is a national centre run by Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, and Uppsala University. The centre combines the best technical expertise with deep knowledge of translational medicine and molecular biology.

Photos: Liza Simonsson, Niklas Norberg Wirtén, Getty Images, Karolinska Institutet, iStock, Jonas Kullman and Erik Flyg

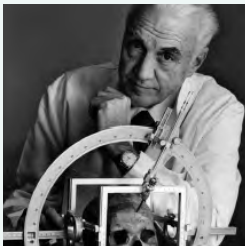
Groundbreaking discoveries

Karolinska Institutet has a proud history of discoveries that have improved the lives for people all over the world. Here is a snapshot:



THE PACEMAKER

In 1958, Åke Senning surgically implants the first pacemaker into a human being. The pacemaker had been built by engineer Rune Elmqvist.



THE GAMMA KNIFE

In 1968, Lars Leksell develops and launches the world's first gamma knife, a stereotactic device first used in the treatment of brain tumours.



CUROSURF

To date, the drug, developed by Tore Curstedt and Bengt Robertsson, has saved the lives of around one million premature babies worldwide.



MIPS

The neurosurgeon Hans von Holst has created MIPS, a technology that improves the protective properties of everyday helmets.



EXTRODUCER

Staffan Holmin has developed a micro-catheter that delivers drugs and cells directly to the body's organs via blood vessels.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

In his will Alfred Nobel designated Karolinska Institutet to award the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Nobel Laureates at Karolinska Institutet

Over the years the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to five scientists from Karolinska Institutet.

Hugo Theorell 1955

Hugo Theorell is the violin-playing scientist who was awarded the 1955 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on oxidation enzymes, substances that enable cells to convert nutrients into energy.

Ragnar Granit 1967

Ragnar Granit, Professor of Neurophysiology at Karolinska Institutet, was awarded the Nobel Prize in

Physiology or Medicine in 1967 for his discoveries concerning the neurophysiology of colour vision.

Ulf von Euler 1970

Ulf von Euler was awarded the 1970 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on the neurotransmitter noradrenaline and the discovery of its role in the nervous system. He did much of his pioneering research at Karolinska Institutet, where he was Professor of Physiology.

Sune Bergström and Bengt Samuelsson 1982

In 1982, Sune Bergström and Bengt Samuelsson were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning prostaglandins – hormone-like substances that regulate a number of important physiological processes. Alongside their work as scientists, which has led to several new drugs, both Laureates also once presided over Karolinska Institutet.



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At a time when truth itself is increasingly questioned, many find inspiration in prizes that celebrate scientific discovery.

Thomas Perlmann

Secretary-General of the Nobel Assembly and Professor of Molecular Developmental Biology at Karolinska Institutet.

Each year in early October, in keeping with Alfred Nobel's last will and testament, the Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace – and the later in his memory added Prize in Economic Sciences – are announced, the first announcement being the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Once the Nobel Committee has carefully examined, analysed and reduced the hundreds of nominations submitted, 50 researchers gather to vote. All are professors at Karolinska Institutet and members of the Nobel Assembly, a body that is independent of the university to guarantee secrecy surrounding the prize. When the votes have been cast, the awarded discovery is announced.



10 facts about the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- 1** The prize sum was SEK 11 million per prize in 2024 and can be shared by a maximum of three persons.
 - 2** The prizes were established by Alfred Nobel's last will and testament in 1895 and were first awarded in 1901.
 - 3** The final vote takes place just before the announcement of the Laureate(s) on the first Monday in October every year. The decision cannot be appealed.
 - 4** The news is usually relayed to the Laureate(s) just before the announcement is made.
 - 5** After the first week in October when the announcements are made, the process begins again, and invitations are sent out for the next round of nominations.
 - 6** Only specially invited researchers may nominate candidates for the prize.
 - 7** They include former Nobel Laureates and professors at medical faculties around the world.
 - 8** No one has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine more than once.
 - 9** The archive remains confidential for 50 years.
 - 10** The building where the Nobel Assembly meets is called the Nobel Forum and is located at the KI campus in Solna. The Session Hall was designed specifically for the assembly meetings.
- The Nobel Prize award ceremony** takes place at the Stockholm City Hall, Sweden, on 10 December – the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, and the Prize in Economic Sciences are awarded to the Nobel Prize Laureates. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo.

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Cover photo by Liza Simonsson: The Widerström Building (Widerströmska huset) at Campus Solna provides facilities for the university's work with public health and other disciplines. Pictured are colleagues from the Department of Global Public Health. The building has been named after the pioneer Karolina Widerström – Sweden's first female doctor.

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The Neo building, a hub for basic and clinical research and education at Campus Flemingsberg.
Photo: Liza Simonsson

Karolinska Institutet is one of the world's leading medical universities. Our vision is to advance knowledge about life and strive towards better health for all. Karolinska Institutet accounts for the single largest share of all academic medical research conducted in Sweden and offers the country's broadest range of education in medicine and health sciences. The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet selects the Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine.



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Karolinska Institutet
171 77 Stockholm
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